



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 19.9.2012
COM(2012) 538 final

Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006¹ allows for the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, within an annual ceiling of EUR 1 billion, over and above the relevant headings of the financial framework. The conditions of eligibility to the Fund are detailed in Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002².

On the basis of the application for assistance from the Fund by Italy of 27 July 2012 in relation to a series of earthquakes in Italy in May 2012, the calculation of Solidarity Fund aid based on the estimate of total damage caused is as follows:

(EUR)

	Direct damage accepted	Threshold	Amount based on 2,5 %	Amount based on 6 %	Total amount of aid proposed
Italy earthquakes 2012	- 13 113,498 million	3 606 million	90 165 575	580 026 784	670 192 359
Total					670 192 359

In the light of the examination of the application³, and considering the maximum possible grant from the Fund as well as the scope for reallocating appropriations under the heading requiring additional expenditure, the Commission proposes to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund for a total amount of EUR 670 192 359, to be allocated under heading 3b of the financial framework.

By presenting this proposal to deploy the Fund, the Commission initiates the simplified trilogue procedure, as required by Point 26 of the Inter-institutional Agreement of 17 May 2006, in view of securing the agreement of the two arms of the Budgetary Authority on the need to use the Fund and the amount required. The Commission invites each arm of the budgetary authority to inform the other arm and the Commission on its intentions.

In case of disagreement by either of the two arms of the Budgetary Authority, a formal trilogue meeting will be convened.

The Commission will present a draft amending budget (DAB) in order to enter in the 2012 budget specific commitment and payment appropriations, as requested in Point 26 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006.

¹ OJ C 139, 14.06.2006, p. 1

² OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3

³ Communication to the Commission C(2012) 6458 on the application to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund presented by Italy.

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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management⁴, and in particular point 26 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund⁵,

Having regard to the proposals from the Commission,⁶

Whereas:

- (1) The European Union has created a European Union Solidarity Fund (the "Fund") to show solidarity with the population of regions struck by disasters.
- (2) The Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 allows the mobilisation of the Fund within the annual ceiling of EUR 1 billion.
- (3) Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 contains the provisions whereby the Fund may be mobilised.
- (4) Italy submitted an application to mobilise the Fund, concerning a disaster caused by a series of earthquakes in Italy.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2012, the European Union Solidarity Fund shall be mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 670 192 359 in commitment and payment appropriations.

⁴ OJ C 139, 14.06.2006, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3.

⁶ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...] and OJ C [...], [...], p. [...]

Article 2

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President